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**March 15, 2015**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **EPFD responds to ComSAR event**

### **Firefighters respond to ComSAR event at Ron Coleman Trail**

*El Paso, Texas* – At approximately 1:13 p.m. on Sunday March 15, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to the Ron Coleman Trail at the Transmountain State Park when hikers saw an injured woman and called 911. The full EPFD/EPPD Combined Search and Rescue team was immediately dispatched and the first unit arrived at the scene at 1:26 p.m. Crews were able to make contact with the patient at 3:03 p.m. The woman, in her mid-thirties, was treated for injuries at the scene. A Native Air helicopter was called in to transport the patient, but crews needed to move her to the point where the helicopter was able to safely land.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., crews were able to reach the helicopter and the patient was transported to University Medical Center. The ComSAR team then began their descent and safely reached the bottom at 8:04 p.m. While going up the mountain, at approximately 2:15 p.m., crews encountered a brush fire at the midpoint of the trail. ComSAR firefighters were able to bring the fire under control at 2:34 p.m.

There were no injuries to ComSAR personnel. A total of 11 units and 42 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. An additional 10 personnel from El Paso Police, Texas Parks and Wildlife and US Customs and Border Protection assisted in the incident. The American Red Cross also assisted in the incident.

The El Paso Fire Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife would like to remind the public to practice these safety recommendations when planning outdoor hiking/camping activities.

- Plan before you go. Get current maps of the area and be aware of the risks.
- Stay on the trail always. Walking off-trail increases your chance of suffering an injury, getting lost, or encountering dangerous wildlife.
- Have a cell or mobile phone for emergencies, but do not rely on them only. Carry with you a whistle, mirror, flag, flashlight, flare or other means to signal your location.

For a list of more detailed hiking and camping tips, the public is encouraged to visit:  
<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/fire-department/divisions/fire-prevention>.

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